

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING May 3, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana was sunny and mostly dry this week which allowed producers ample time in the fields but reporters noted that crop and range development is stalling in some areas as topsoil continues to dry out. There were 6.3 days suitable for field work this week, which allowed producers to make good progress on spring seeding. Winter wheat is beginning to enter boot stage and its condition is in line with the five year average currently but reporters in the largest growing areas are noting that timely precipitation will now be key to avoiding large losses. Livestock are being moved to summer pastures ahead of the five year average but grass development has been slow due to low amounts of precipitation and some producers are still having to feed as a result.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barley | | | | |
| Planted | 79 | 58 | 50 | 53 |
| Emerged..... | 36 | 11 | 2 | 12 |
| Camelina | | | | |
| Planted | 30 | 14 | 1 | 26 |
| Emerged..... | 5 | NA | -- | 12 |
| Canola | | | | |
| Planted | 57 | 33 | 31 | 29 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Planted | 21 | 2 | 14 | 16 |
| Dry beans | | | | |
| Planted | 53 | 11 | 5 | 11 |
| Dry peas | | | | |
| Planted | 60 | 43 | 43 | 47 |
| Emerged..... | 4 | NA | 1 | 3 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Planted | 40 | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| Emerged..... | 4 | NA | -- | 2 |
| Flaxseed | | | | |
| Planted | 43 | 3 | 1 | 18 |
| Lentils | | | | |
| Planted | 58 | 21 | 19 | 38 |
| Emerged..... | 1 | NA | -- | 2 |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Planted | 50 | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Planted | 56 | 30 | 12 | 31 |
| Emerged..... | 18 | 1 | -- | 7 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Planted | 43 | 18 | 8 | 14 |
| Emerged..... | 1 | NA | -- | -- |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Planted | 71 | 48 | 34 | 39 |
| Emerged..... | 22 | 4 | 1 | 7 |

Table continued on back

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS -- continued

| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Planted | 67 | 47 | 62 | 49 |
| Emerg'd | 14 | 4 | -- | 6 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Boot stage | 1 | NA | -- | 1 |
| Cattle | | | | |
| Moved to summer ranges | 24 | 5 | 27 | 19 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 53 | 68 | 71 | NA |
| Cows calved | 91 | 83 | 85 | 87 |
| Ewes lambed | 85 | 76 | 70 | 74 |
| Sheep | | | | |
| Moved to summer ranges | 28 | 4 | 21 | 15 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 44 | 69 | 66 | NA |
| Livestock grazing | | | | |
| Closed | 5 | 8 | 22 | 10 |
| Difficult | 14 | 14 | 16 | 12 |
| Open | 81 | 78 | 62 | 78 |

(NA) – not available

(--) – zero

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pasture and Range | | | | |
| Very poor | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| Poor | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 |
| Fair | 49 | 51 | 44 | 40 |
| Good | 32 | 30 | 35 | 33 |
| Excellent | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

| Commodity | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Days suitable for fieldwork | 6.3 | 5.8 | 4.3 | 4.0 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short | 7 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Short | 35 | 29 | 9 | 12 |
| Adequate | 51 | 54 | 77 | 68 |
| Surplus | 7 | 9 | 10 | 16 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 7 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| Short | 23 | 22 | 11 | 17 |
| Adequate | 56 | 55 | 82 | 69 |
| Surplus | 14 | 16 | 5 | 7 |

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

| Commodity | Very poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Winter wheat | 2 | 6 | 29 | 39 | 24 |

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_05032015.pdf